

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/985,834
Attorney Docket No. Q66938

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were examined on their merits and claim 9 has been added to the application. Therefore, claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

Formal Matters

1. Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to priority and for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 6, 2001.

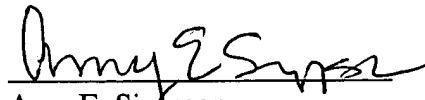
2. Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate informalities as suggested by the Examiner. As indicated by the Examiner, claims 1-8 patentably distinguish over the prior art. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim amendments submitted herewith place the claims in condition for allowance. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and thus find the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Amy E. Simpson
Registration No. P-54,688

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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Date: June 19, 2003